

# Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

## Community Review

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

SUMMER 2008  
Volume 5, Number 3



## Message from the Director

Hello! ODHH Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 has been finalized and posted on the website. Please take the time to download and read what we will do for you in the next several years!

As you may know, the Washington economy is not doing too well. Lower revenue projections for the State of Washington government resulted in a hiring freeze and cutbacks in travel, certain contracts, equipment purchases and other expenses. What does this mean for ODHH? ODHH has a vacant position that cannot be filled, some planned contracts that will be on hold, and a reduction in some staff travel. Some goals in the strategic plan will be delayed. While this may be unfortunate, I am confident that ODHH can face these difficult times and continue to provide the essential services our clients need.

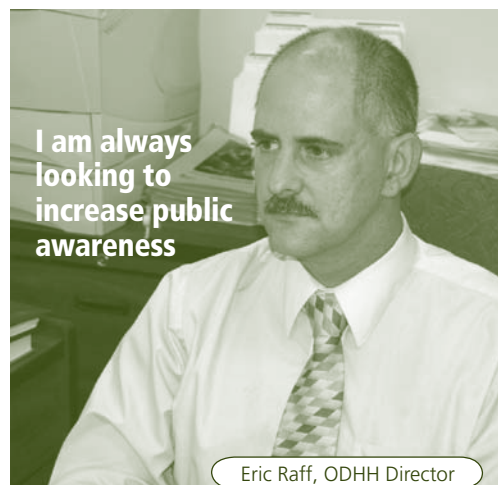
While the strategic plan is completed, accomplishing the goals begin. I want to take a moment to recognize certain achievements, milestones and goals in the

last three fiscal years (FY06-08) covering the period between July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008. (See page 2) This could not have been achieved without the staff, advisory committee, contractors and many supporters in the communities. For this, I am grateful and appreciative of their work and involvement.

Due to lack of public awareness, barriers to effective communication access exist for individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind and speech disabled in Washington State. I am always looking to increase public awareness and recently worked to release a Governor's Proclamation celebrating the International Deaf Awareness Week during the week of September 21-27, 2008! The last Governor's Proclamation happened in 1997.

I intend to seek similar Governor's Proclamations in the future such as "Better Hearing and Speech Month" in May and the "National Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week" in June to reflect the

**I am always  
looking to  
increase public  
awareness**



Eric Raff, ODHH Director

diverse communities we serve. A simple proclamation is only the beginning. I predict someday working with regional and local organizations to host local celebrations in schools and malls and them working with their local mayors' offices to release Mayor's Proclamation(s). We need to work together to become more visible and to help the public understand that by removing barriers we can improve our quality of life and succeed in anything!

### 2009-2013

## ODHH Strategic Plan Available

Dear Friends of ODHH,

The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 has been released and is now available! This document will help explain what we will do for you in the next several years.

You can download the Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/strategic/2009-13/Adm/ODHH.pdf>

If you need alternative formats (large print, Braille or foreign language) please email to [odhh@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:odhh@dshs.wa.gov) or call Ryan Bondroff at (800) 422-7930 V/T.

Please feel free to contact Eric Raff at [rafferic@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:rafferic@dshs.wa.gov) if you have any questions about the ODHH Strategic Plan.

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# ODHH Milestones

**FY06**

7/1/05

8/28/05

2/3/06

**Fiscal Year 06 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)**

ODHH contracts for Sign Language Interpreter Services for first time

ODHH contracts with Sprint to provide relay services

"Do Not Hang Up on Relay" Public Service Announcement campaign in Eastern Washington

**FY07**

9/29/06

12/07/06

12/08/06

1/10/07

4/1/07

4/12/07

5/19/07

5/30/07

6/27–29/07

6/30/07

**Fiscal Year 07 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)**

Sprint-ODHH hosts "Taste of Technology" conference

ODHH contracts with Humanware to develop a DeafBlind telecommunication device

ODHH reveals new WA Relay logo

ODHH funds Deaf-Blind Service Center (DBSC) 'Communication Facilitator' pilot project to allow deafblind access videophone technology

ODHH launches "Don't Hang Up on Relay" Public Service Announcement campaign in Western Washington

ODHH begin providing CapTel relay service and telephone equipment

ODHH Advisory Committee meeting – 1st Bylaws officially approved and ODHH "Advisory Committee on Deafness" renamed to "ODHH Advisory Committee on Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind and Speech-Disabled"

Revised DSHS Administrative Policy 7.20 approved and official

ODHH hosts 1st "Community Advocates Training" for in-service training benefiting Regional Service Center staff as a quality assurance initiative.

ODHH invites Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA of WA) to hear nationally renowned psychologist, educator, and author of the Living with Hearing Loss Program series, Sam Trychin, on coping with hearing loss.

**FY08**

9/22/07

11/28/07

1/24/08

2/7/08

4/18/08

5/9–5/10/08

5/15–17/08

**Fiscal Year 08 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)**

ODHH New Booth Shown @ DeafNation Expo in Portland, OR

ODHH honored as the Washington State Agency Outstanding "Employer of 2007" award by Morningside, a not-for-profit community rehabilitation organization for people with disabilities

ODHH is profiled in the "Inside DSHS" employee newsletter for the Morningside award

ODHH is profiled in the "Inside DSHS" employee newsletter for work on the deafblind telecommunication device

ODHH-Sprint hosts "Taste of Technology" conference

ODHH hosts "TED Trainers Conference" for in-service training

ODHH hosts "Medical Interpreting" workshops for interpreters and "You, Your Health Care Provider, Your Interpreter: A Healthy Partnership" community town halls @ Spokane, Lacey, Seattle

## DSHS/ODHH Advisory Committee Meeting

**September 20, 2008****9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Yakima Convention Center

10 North 8th St., Yakima, WA 98901

Toll-free: (800) 221.0751

Local: (509) 575-6062

Email: meetings@yakimacenter.com

Web: www.yakimacenter.com

**Accommodations:**

This meeting location is accessible. Sign language interpreter services, assistive listening systems, computer assisted real-time (CART) captioning will be provided. Requests for deaf-blind interpreting and published materials in alternative format must be submitted to Rena Patch patchrr@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 902-7564 (Voice/TTY) by Friday, September 5, 2008.

Please contact Rena Patch at patchrr@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 902-7564 if you have questions.

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, September 21-27, 2008 marks the celebration of International Deaf Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS**, this annual celebration is dedicated to promoting the social, cultural and educational lives of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people, and recognizes their achievements and capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington offers its wholehearted welcome and best wishes to all observers and participants for a renewed spirit of togetherness with commitment to improve the quality of life for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has served the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people for more than 25 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will participate in the celebration;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 21-27, 2008, as

### **DEAF AWARENESS WEEK**

in Washington State, and I invite all of our citizens to join me in the observance of this occasion.



Signed, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2008.

*Christine O. Gregoire*

Governor Christine O. Gregoire



# Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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**Web site: <http://odhh.dshs.wa.gov>**

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